

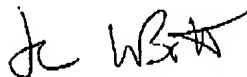
REMARKS

By this amendment, Applicants have canceled claim 19. As a result, claims 1-3, 7-8, 10-11, 13-18, 20-21 and 23-26 are pending in this application. These amendments are being made to facilitate early allowance of the presently claimed subject matter. Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the objections and rejections and reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 7-8, 10-11, 13-18, 20-21 and 23-26 are allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for noticing the patentable subject matter of these claims. However, the Office rejects claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,236,124 (Rockwood) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,767,969 (Chevalier) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,989,052 (Okada). By this amendment, Applicants have canceled claim 19, without prejudice.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all currently pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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